findings, conclusions, views, and opinions are not necessarily those of IMS Health Incorporated or any of its affiliated or subsidiary entities. IMS Health data were extracted March 4, 2010, and include total dispensed prescriptions, new dispensed prescriptions and refill dispensed prescriptions through retail settings (chain, mass merchandiser, food stores and independent pharmacies) from January 2008-December 2008 and January 2009-December 2009 for the United States, North Carolina, and North Carolina counties.

Average annual retail prescriptions were calculated using North Carolina population data retrieved from the Office of State Planning and U.S. population data accessed from the U.S. Census Bureau in combination with the total number of retail dispensed prescriptions data provided by IMS Health. Average annual retail prescriptions per retail pharmacist were calculated using the total number of retail dispensed prescriptions and licensure data from the North Carolina Pharmacy Board; only pharmacists who identified a specialty in a retail setting (chain or independent pharmacy) were included. Data in the text on page 14 showing the annual number of retail prescriptions filled per retail pharmacist per hour were calculated using retail pharmacist counts and an assumption that, on average, pharmacists work 2,000 hours per year (40 hours per week for 50 weeks). This was done in order to allow for direct comparison between current and previously published state-level data in Fraher, et. al's 2002 report on the pharmacy workforce. However, data in **Figure 20** and **Table 2** use pharmacists' average hours per week as reported to the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy at time of their annual license renewal; this method takes into account pharmacists working fewer than 40 hours per week and gives a more accurate estimate of workload at smaller units of geography (county and region). These data were then used in conjunction with the IMS Health Incorporated data to determine the average number of retail prescriptions filled per retail pharmacist per hour. ❖